What is claimed is:

1. A backplane for a communications system, wherein the backplane includes a plurality of differential signal line pairs, including a first differential signal line pair having a first differential signal line and a second differential signal line wherein each differential signal line includes a first end and a second end, and wherein each differential signal line pair provides a communications path for a differential signal pair including a first signal and a second signal wherein the first and second signals are differential signals, the backplane comprising:

a plurality of vias, including first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth vias;

a first differential signal line to provide a communications path for the first signal of a first differential signal pair, wherein the first differential signal line is coupled to the first via at its first end and the second via at its second end;

a second differential signal line to provide a communications path for the second signal of the first differential signal pair, wherein the second differential signal line is coupled to the third via at its first end and the fourth via at its second end;

a third signal line having a first end and a second end, wherein third signal line is coupled to the fifth via at its first end and sixth via at its second end; and

wherein the first via is spatially located adjacent to the fifth via such that a signal on the third signal line is coupled to the first signal and wherein the fourth via is spatially located adjacent to the sixth via such that the signal on the third signal line is coupled to the second signal and wherein the coupling between the first signal and the third signal is substantially equal to the coupling between the second signal and third signal.

2. The backplane of claim 1 further including a plurality of conductor planes wherein the third signal line is on a first conductor plane and the first and second differential signal lines are on a second conductor plane.

3. The backplane of claim 1 further including a plurality of conductor planes wherein the third signal line is on a first conductor plane and the first and second differential signal lines are on the first conductor plane.

4. The backplane of claim 1 of claim 1 wherein the second differential signal line includes a skew adjustment path located between the first end and the second end.

5. The backplane of claim 4 wherein the lengths of the first and second differential signal lines of the first differential signal pair are substantially equal.

6. The backplane of claim 1 wherein the second via is spatially separated from the fifth and sixth vias such that there is substantially no coupling between the first and third signals based on the spatial relationship of the second, fifth and sixth vias.

7. The backplane of claim 1 wherein the third via is spatially separated from the fifth and sixth vias such that there is substantially no coupling between the second and third signals based on the spatial relationship of the third, fifth and sixth vias.

8. A backplane for a communications system, wherein the backplane includes a first and second differential signal line pairs, wherein each differential signal line pair includes a first differential signal line and a second differential signal line, and wherein each differential signal line pair provides a communications path for a corresponding differential signal pair including a first signal and a second signal wherein the first and second signals are differential signals, the backplane comprising:

a plurality of vias, including first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth vias,

a first differential signal line of the first differential signal pair, wherein the first differential signal line is coupled to the first via at its first end and the second via at its second end;

a second differential signal line of the first differential signal pair, wherein the second differential signal line is coupled to the third via at its first end and the fourth via at its second end;

a first differential signal line of the second differential signal pair, wherein the second differential signal line is coupled to the fifth via at its first end and the second via at its sixth end;

a second differential signal line of the second differential signal pair, wherein the second differential signal line is coupled to the seventh via at its first end and the eighth via at its second end;

wherein:

the first via is spatially located adjacent to the fifth via such that the signal on the first differential signal line of the second differential signal pair is coupled to the signal on the first differential signal line of the first differential signal pair;

the second via is spatially located adjacent to the eighth via such that the signal on the second differential signal line of the second differential signal pair is coupled to the signal on the first differential signal line of the first differential signal pair;

the third via is spatially located adjacent to the seventh via such that the signal on the second differential signal line of the second differential signal pair is coupled to the signal on the second differential signal line of the first differential signal pair;

the fourth via is spatially located adjacent to the sixth via such that the signal on the first differential signal line of the second differential signal pair is coupled to the signal on the second differential signal line of the first differential signal pair; and

wherein the crosstalk between the signal on the first differential signal line of the first differential signal pair and the signals on the first and second differential signal lines of the second differential pair is substantially equal to the crosstalk between the signal on the second differential signal line of the first differential signal pair and the signals on the first and second differential signal lines of the second differential pair.

9. The backplane of claim 8 further including a plurality of conductor planes wherein the first and second differential signal lines are located on different conductor planes.

10. The backplane of claim 8 further including a plurality of conductor planes wherein the first and second differential signal lines are located on the same conductor planes.

11. The backplane of claim 8 wherein the second differential signal line of the first differential signal pair includes a skew adjustment path located between its first end and its second end.

12. The backplane of claim 11 wherein the lengths of the first and second differential signal lines of the first differential signal pair are substantially equal.

13. The backplane of claim 11 wherein the first and second differential signal lines of the second differential signal pair include a layout having a topology that corresponds to the topology of the skew adjustment path.

14. The backplane of claim 13 wherein lengths of each differential signal lines of the first and second differential signal pairs are substantially equal.

15. The backplane of claim 11 wherein lengths of each differential signal lines of the first and second differential signal pairs are substantially equal.